CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1. A method for caching multimedia content to an occasionally-connected

2 device, comprising:

3   creating a play list based at least in part on a user's preferences;

4   submitting the play list to a multimedia content provider through a

5 network;

6   downloading multimedia content in the play list to a device when the

7 device is connected to the multimedia content provider and caching the

8 multimedia content on the device; and

9   playing the cached multimedia content while the device is not connected

10 to the multimedia content provider.

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1   2. The method of claim 1, wherein creating a play list comprises:

2   creating an initial play list based on at least one of the following: the user's

3 specifications, a play list pre-defined by the user, and a play list pre-determined

4 by the multimedia content provider;

5   expanding the initial play list by recommending to the user additional

6 content based on the user's preferences; and

7   refining the expanded initial play list based on the user's feedback.

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1   3. The method of claim 2, wherein expanding the initial play list

2 comprises cross-pollinating the initial play list using play lists of other users.

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1   4. The method of claim 1, wherein the device comprises a portable

2 device.

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1   5. The method for claim 1, wherein playing the multimedia content

2 comprises accessing the multimedia content and rendering the multimedia

3 content to the user.

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1   6. The method for claim 5, wherein accessing the multimedia content
2 comprises at least one of the following: unpacking, decrypting, decompressing,
3 and decoding the multimedia content.

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1   7. The method for claim 1, wherein the network comprises at least one of
2 the following: a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, a terrestrial
3 broadcast network, and a wireless network.

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1   8. A method for distributing multimedia files, comprising:
2   accepting a play list of multimedia files;
3   searching a database for multimedia content according to the play list;
4   processing the multimedia content before the multimedia content is
5 downloaded; and
6   transferring the multimedia content to an occasionally-connected device.

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1   9. The method of claim 8, wherein the occasionally-connected device
2 comprises a portable device.

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1   10. The method of claim 8, wherein processing the multimedia files
2 comprises at least one of the following: packaging, encrypting, compressing, and
3 encoding the multimedia files.

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1   11. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises at least one
2 of static and dynamic multimedia content.

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1   12. A system for caching multimedia contents to an occasionally
2 connected device, comprising:
3   a play list creator capable of creating a play list of multimedia files;
4   a multimedia content provider capable of providing multimedia files
5 specified by the play list for a user to download;

6   a multimedia content cache capable of receiving the multimedia files

7   through a network and storing the multimedia files; and

8   a multimedia content player capable of accessing and rendering the

9   multimedia contents to the user.

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1   13. The system of claim 12, wherein the play list creator comprises:

2   a play list generating mechanism capable of generating a play list;

3   a pre-determining mechanism capable of at least one of the following:

4   receiving parameters specifying the user's preferences, loading a user pre-

5   defined play list, and providing a number of play lists pre-determined by the

6   multimedia content provider;

7   a recommendation mechanism capable of expanding the play list by

8   recommending additional multimedia files; and

9   a user feedback uploading mechanism capable of uploading the user

10   feedback to refine the play list.

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1   14. The system of claim 12, wherein the multimedia content provider

2   comprises:

3   a communication port;

4   a multimedia content database;

5   a searching mechanism capable of searching the multimedia content

6   database for multimedia files in the play list; and

7   a content processing mechanism capable of at least one of the following:

8   packaging, encrypting, compressing, and encoding the multimedia files.

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1   15. The system of claim 12, wherein the multimedia content cache

2   comprises:

3   a communication port;

4   a receiving component capable of downloading and receiving the

5   multimedia files from the multimedia content provider through a network; and

6   a storage component capable of storing the multimedia files.

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1   16. The system of claim 12, wherein the multimedia content player
2 comprises:
3   a multimedia content access module capable of at least one of the
4 following: unpacking, decrypting, decompressing, and decoding the multimedia
5 files stored in the multimedia content cache; and
6   a multimedia content rendering mechanism capable of rendering the
7 multimedia files to a user.
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1   17. An article comprising: a machine accessible medium having content
2 stored thereon, wherein when the content is accessed by a processor, the
3 content provides for caching multimedia content to an occasionally-connected
4 device by:
5   creating a play list based at least in part on a user's preferences;
6   submitting the play list to a multimedia content provider through a
7 network;
8   downloading multimedia content in the play list to a device when the
9 device is connected to the multimedia content provider and caching the
10 multimedia content on the device; and
11   playing the cached multimedia content while the device is not connected
12 to the multimedia content provider.
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1   18. The article of claim 17, wherein the content for creating a play list
2 comprises content for:
3   creating an initial play list based on at least one of the following: the user's
4 specifications, a play list pre-defined by the user, and a play list pre-determined
5 by the multimedia content provider;
6   expanding the initial play list by recommending to the user additional
7 content based on the user's preferences; and
8   refining the expanded initial play list based on the user's feedback.
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1   19. The article of claim 18, wherein the content for expanding the initial

2 play list comprises cross-pollinating the initial play list using play lists of other

3 users.

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1   20. The article of claim 17, wherein the device comprises a portable

2 device.

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1   21. The article for claim 17, wherein the content for playing the

2 multimedia content comprises content for accessing the multimedia content and

3 content for rendering the multimedia content to the user.

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1   22. The article for claim 21, wherein the content for accessing the

2 multimedia content comprises content for at least one of the following:

3 unpacking, decrypting, decompressing, and decoding the multimedia content.

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1   23. The article for claim 17, wherein the network comprises at least one

2 of the following: a local area network, a wide area network, the Internet, a

3 terrestrial broadcast network, and a wireless network.

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1   24. An article comprising: a machine accessible medium having content

2 stored thereon, wherein when the content is accessed by a processor, the

3 content provides for distributing multimedia files by:

4   accepting a play list of multimedia files;

5   searching a database for multimedia content according to the play list;

6   processing the multimedia content before the multimedia content is

7 downloaded; and

8   transferring the multimedia content to an occasionally-connected device.

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1   25. The article of claim 24, wherein the occasionally-connected device

2 comprises a portable device.

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1 26. The article of claim 24, wherein the content for processing the

2 multimedia files comprises content for at least one of the following: packaging,

3 encrypting, compressing, and encoding the multimedia files.

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1 27. The article of claim 24, wherein the database comprises at least one

2 of static and dynamic multimedia content.

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